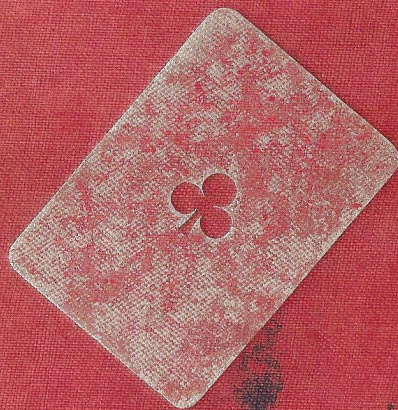
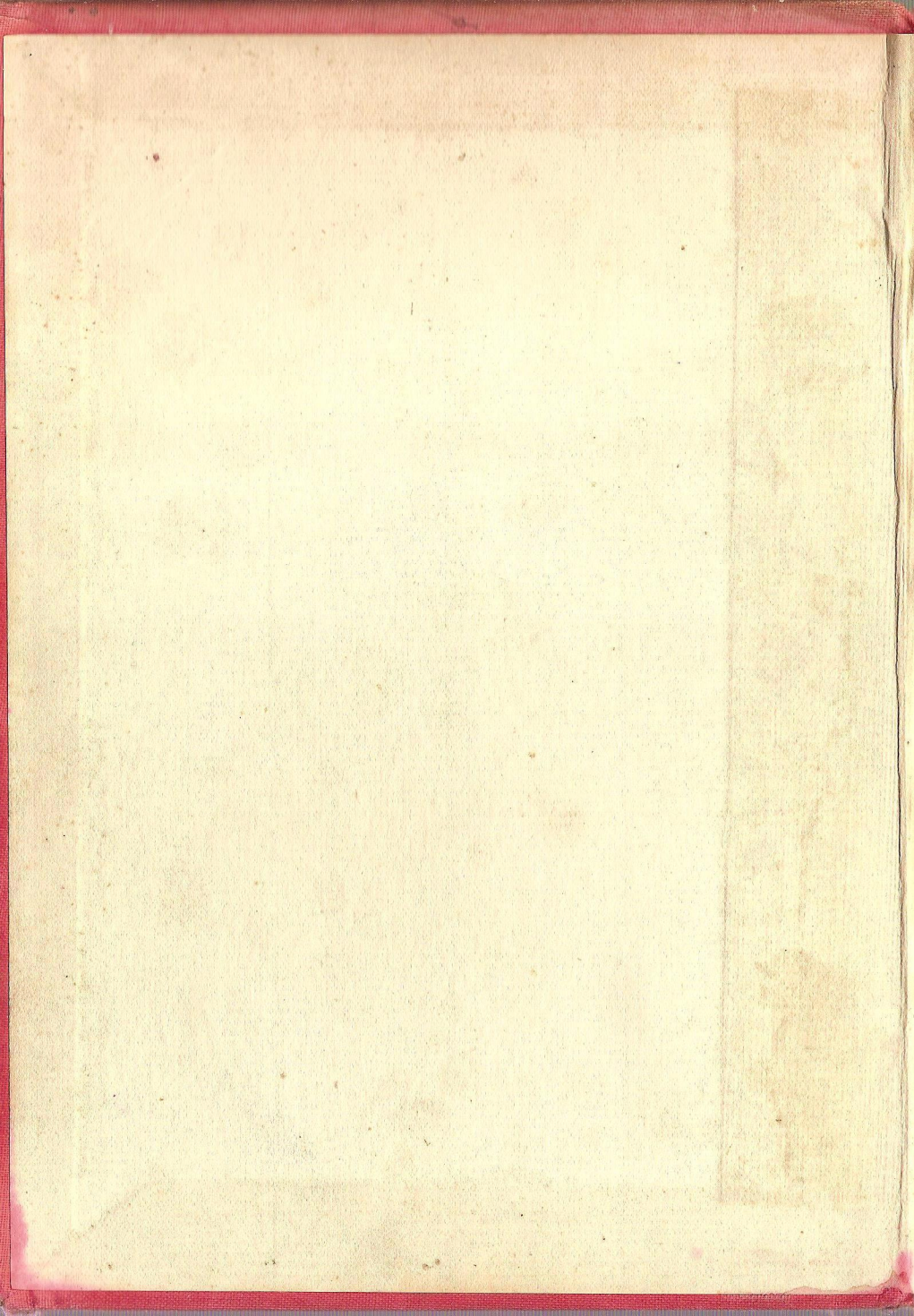
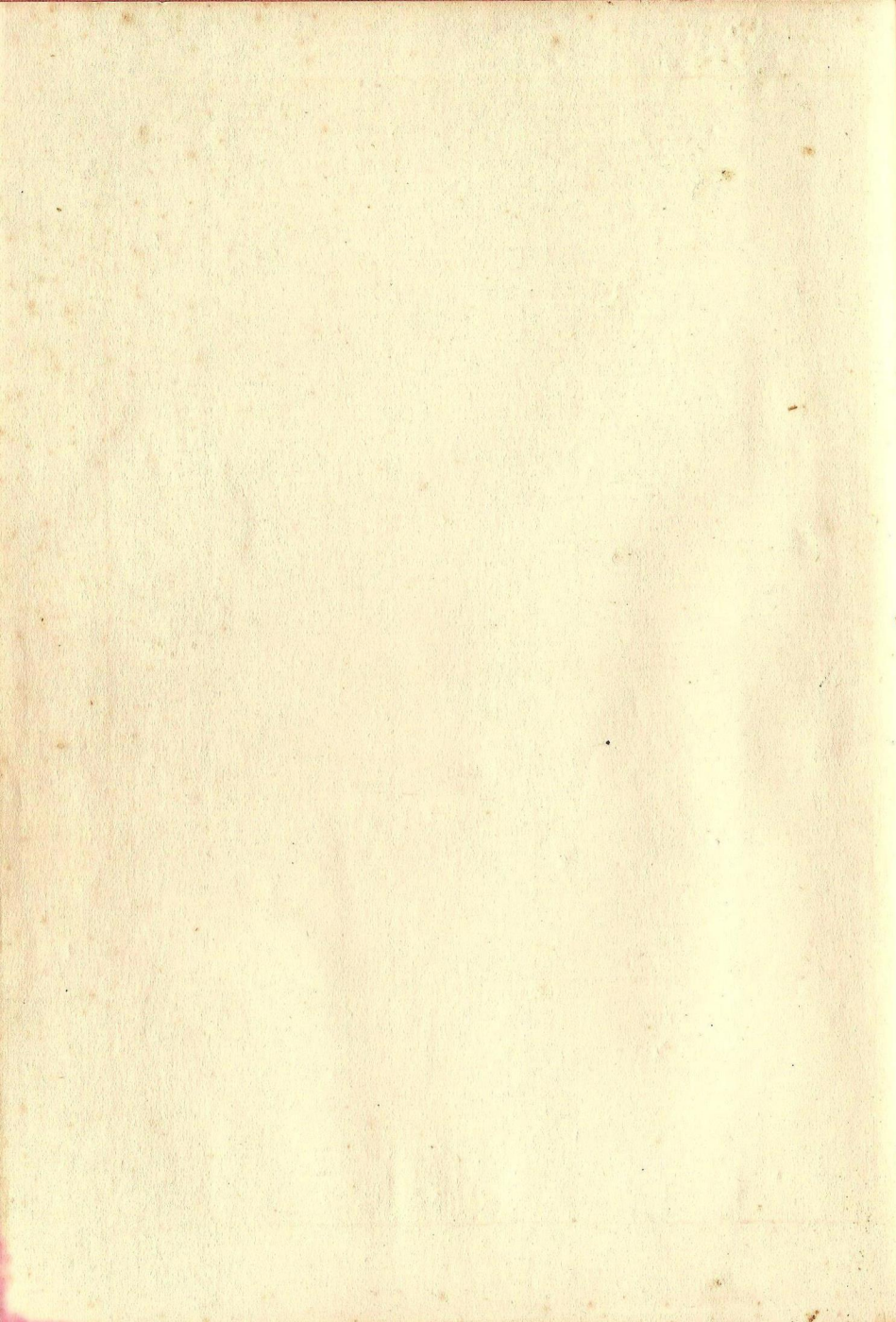


WHAT THE CARDS TELL

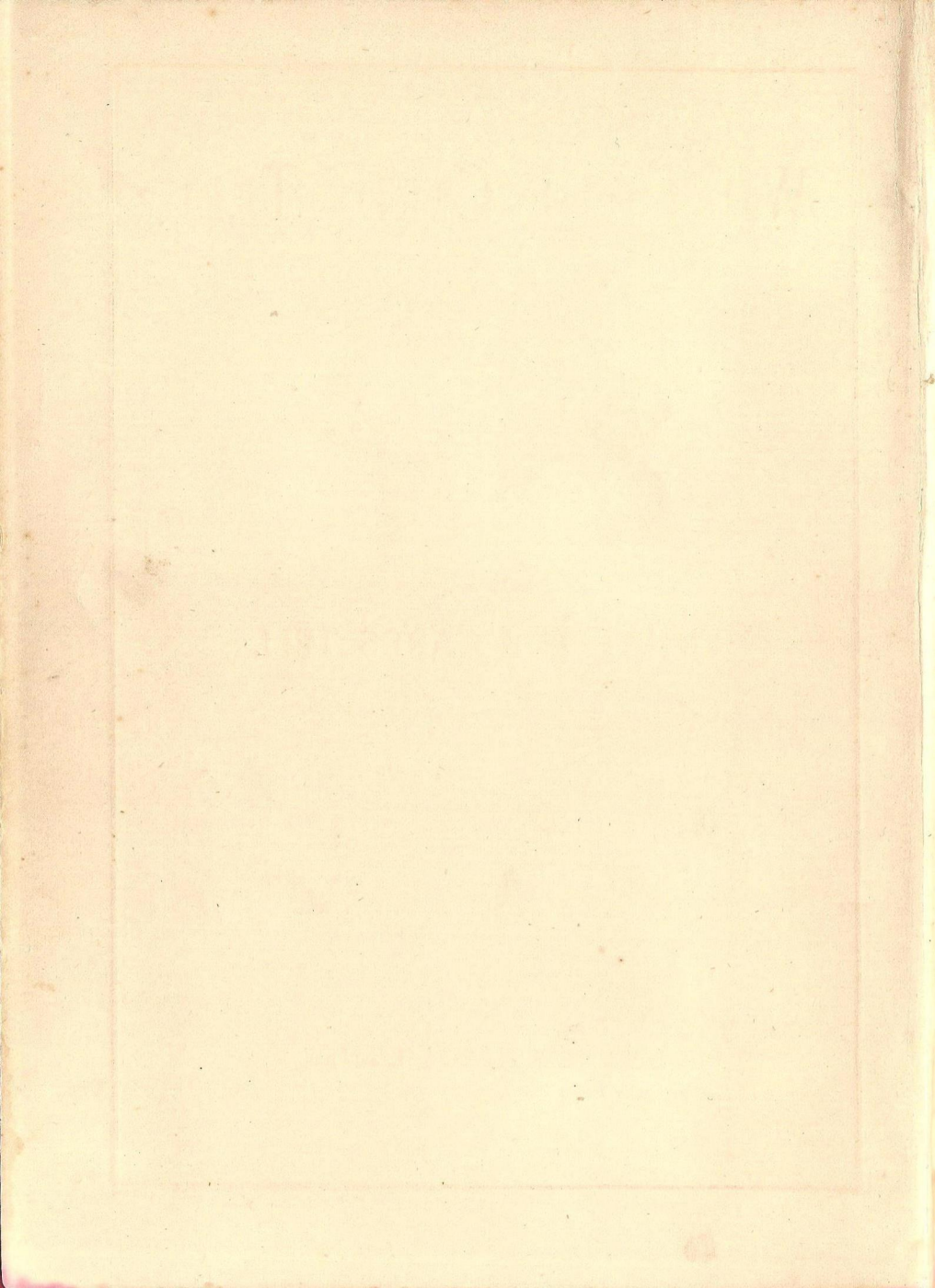




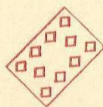
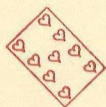
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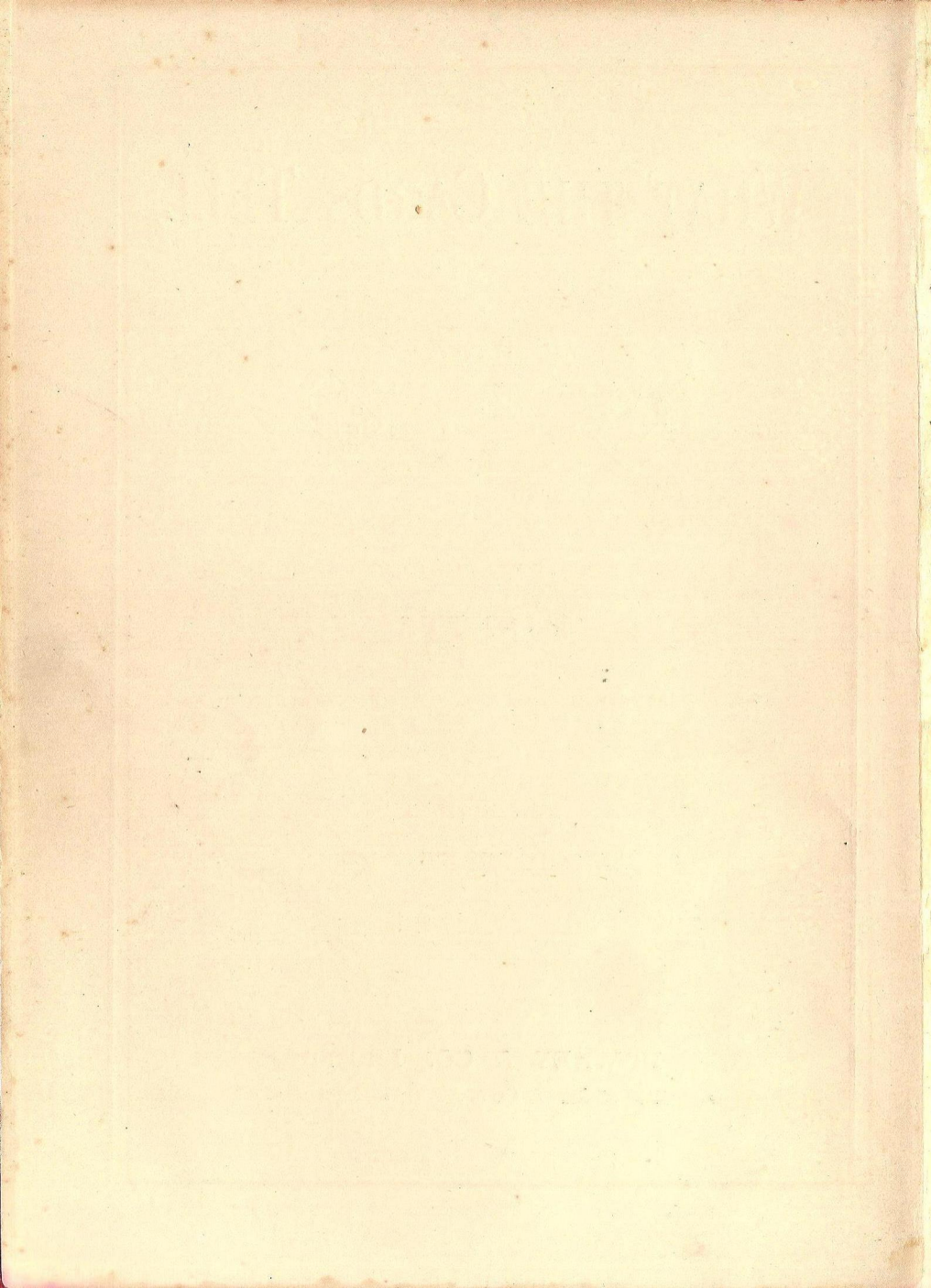
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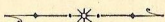
BY
MINETTA

NEW EDITION
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What the Cards Tell.



"Coming events cast their shadows before."

TIME after time this eternal truth is brought home to us, yet many ignore these shadows even when they fall across their path. There is no greater mistake possible, for if we rightly interpret their significance, as we may, we shall be able to pick our path among the events themselves. There are still, as of old, many ways of foreseeing the future, and there is an irresistible fascination in trying to peep behind the veil that hides it. Many, indeed, know something of occultism, and some possess powers of second sight wherewith they can amuse and benefit their friends. But it is for those who have not developed these mystic

powers, and who have no time to study the difficult art of Palmistry, but nevertheless are interested in the subject, that this book is written. I intend here to put before you some simple and easy methods of "telling your fortune," as the gipsies say, by means of Cartomancy. Every one who reads can learn, and believe me, there is no doubt but that you will be able to prophesy correctly for yourself and your friends. I have found all the methods here described most successful.

Of course I know there are many people who raise their eyebrows in righteous horror if the cards are mentioned for fortune-telling. I have met them often, they come to me to consult the oracle for them, at the same time hoping I shall not mention the fact to certain friends of theirs. My advice is to avoid such people, for, after you have given your time for their amusement, they invariably, with an hysterical laugh, say, "Of course it is impossible the cards can tell you any-

thing true, still it is strange what good hits you have made ; and you have such an amusing way of telling them, that we are forced to be interested, even against our will."

Since three thousand years before Christ, the art of Cartomancy has been in vogue. Many ancient adepts consulted the oracle before venturing on any great undertaking. The Chinese used to engrave plates of copper and silver with designs of similar import to those in modern use. The Hebrews engraved the sacred symbols of the Tarot on plates of gold, and these were afterwards copied by the Kabalists, and notably by Simeon-bar-Jochai, to whom we owe our knowledge of the Book of Hermes. The art of Divination was in vogue among the adepts of the religious orders in times past, and the vulgar imitation was permitted by them the better to veil from public knowledge the true secrets of the sacred science. But as has been truly said : "The day has now come when hidden things should

be brought to light, and that which was spoken in secret shall be declared upon the housetop." That the art has not yet died out proves that there is "something in it." It is said, and I believe with accuracy, that a great and able general of this century habitually consulted the cards, and planned his campaigns according to the predictions given by them ; and alas, the only time he disregarded his oracle was before the defeat at Moscow. From great experience I know it is a fact, that by means of cards many marvellous truths of past, present, and future can be seen. I have, I am glad to say, through Cartomancy, been able to send many people on their way with new-born hope, and proved that "every cloud has a silver lining." Within the last two years I have told very many fortunes, and I have been astonished myself at the truth of my prophecies.

Unfortunately there are many people who profess to be able to read the cards and really

know nothing whatever about them. But putting these people aside, as a rule two cartomancers, knowing nothing of each other, will tell the same person's fortune word for word alike. The following short dialogue gives one instance of many such cases happening to me.

I met Mrs. L. for the first time about a year ago, and on that occasion read the cards for her.

"You are a witch!" she said. "You have never met me before, and you know nothing about me, yet, with regard to many past things you have been absolutely correct."

I said I hoped she would soon tell me that the good things I had seen in the future were as true.

"Tell me, have you met Miss H.?"

"No, I had not. Was she interested in the subject?"

"She is a professional fortune-teller. I met her a few weeks ago, she read the cards for me, and at the time I wrote down all she prophesied for me. May I read it to you?"

Mrs. L. then read to me, almost word for word, what I had just been foretelling her. I had never even heard of Miss H., and she and I had absolutely agreed with regard to Mrs. L.'s future. Can this agreement be put down to mere coincidence?

I have myself consulted fortune-tellers, and many things have occurred as they foretold them. I was some little time ago consulting a professional at the cards. She told me I was being cheated over some papers. She described two or three people, all of whom I recognized, but I would not believe that one of them would for one moment wrong me in any way. I had the greatest confidence in them. I was rather vexed that they were described so accurately, and said to the seer, "I am quite sure you are wrong in this matter." She replied quietly, "Time will show." Not two months elapsed before I learnt to my cost how too true her prediction was. The same thing was foretold me by a friend of

mine, a clairvoyant. She saw it all in the crystal.

A very difficult and almost impossible thing to judge by the cards is Time. However, I have known cases where incidents have occurred within the time specified by the seer. I have occasionally been successful in this respect myself, but I have no idea how I calculated, consequently I cannot give any positive instruction concerning time. My opinion is that practice will develop many things that one can never learn by any given rule.

It is useful, however, to know that

<i>Diamonds</i> indicate the spring.		
<i>Clubs</i>	„	summer.
<i>Hearts</i>	„	autumn.
<i>Spades</i>	„	winter.

The instructions given in this book will give all who look within an insight into the meanings of the cards, and wonderful results will come with practice.

I must remark that it can hardly be supposed that the cards have any particular inherent virtue of their own, consequently the fortune-teller *must* allow his (or her) intellectual and *intuitive* faculties to have full sway in order to develop a clear and reliable insight into the destinies of his (or her) consulters. The successful prophecies, from whatever source they are derived—crystal-gazing, palmistry, psychometry, *or* cards—depend entirely on the intuitional faculties of the seer; and the failures which, alas, often occur, are likewise due to the untrained and inexpert dabbling in what they do not understand. Unreliable predictions are also often given, because the seer has exhausted herself (or himself) by obliging too many people, and so taxing the inner sight too much. From experience I am sure it is not wise to tell more than two or three fortunes in a day, in justice both to “Seer” and “Consulter.”

One of many honest doubts, and, by-the-bye, all such doubts have a courteous way of getting

themselves expressed, has been very plainly set before me, and I think deserves an answer. It takes this shape: Seeing the incalculability of the order in which the pack may be placed in the hands of the consulter, all after-shufflings must have a relativity to that order; in other words, the position of the cards depends as much on their original order as upon the handling of the inquirer. I reply, even if no shuffling at all took place by an imperious insistence of the seeker, then it is the future, the destiny, the fate of the inquirer to have accepted or endorsed an order leading to the special reading and pronouncement of the intuitive and conscientious seer.

Beginners, who wish to excel in the art of fortune-telling by cards, must not be discouraged if at first they seem to be unsuccessful, but "try, try, try again." I say *seem* to be unsuccessful, because inquirers are, as a rule, so impatient; they expect everything to happen at once. That the events foretold are not fulfilled in a limited

time, is no proof that they will never be. Inquirers, therefore, should not doubt the truth of the prophecies on this account. As I have already explained, it is most difficult to predict *time*. Some say that it is impossible to foretell by cards anything beyond seven years, others limit the time to three years, and it is said that predictions are fulfilled by threes, viz. that the events foretold will show themselves within three days, three weeks, three months, or three years. I doubt very much if one can see quite as far in advance as three years, though I have heard of people who have foretold events at that distance of time. I myself have not yet prophesied beyond two years.

I have now and again been told by people for whom I have consulted the cards, that "nothing has happened yet that you told me." This, perhaps, only a few days after I had read the cards for them. I generally reply, "Rome was not built in a day." It is never very long before

they come to me, begging me to lay their cards out again, as so many things were correct on the last occasion.

A common error and, indeed, a very seductive one amongst inquirers, is that of connecting things that are told them with some thing or place that they have in their minds at the moment, while often the oracle has alluded to quite another matter. I have fallen into this error myself. This shows that the inquirer must be careful how he interprets his fortune; he must listen to the reading of the cards in a placid and unbiassed state of mind, and in the same way should the seer *read* the cards. It is most satisfactory to write the predictions down exactly as they are said by the seer. I have done this myself, and on reading it over some little time after, I have been surprised to see how many of the predictions have been fulfilled, and some in quite a different way from that in which I had interpreted them at the time they were foretold me.

I have often, for the sake of tests, laid the cards out to ascertain the verdict of cases brought into a court of law, and have *always* been successful. I have mentioned to my friends what I concluded from the cards would be the ending of some very noted cases, and which party would gain the day. I have often been laughed at and asked satirically "if I had read the papers," if so, I should see that the party had not the ghost of a chance. However, the laugh is not always on the same side; my friends have had to acknowledge my conclusion was the right one.

In the early part of this year I was reading the cards for a lady who wished to let her house in town for the season. By the position of the cards I saw that someone would apply for the house, but would offer too low a rent. I advised my friend to refuse this first offer, as I foresaw another a little later on, which would be more advantageous.

Within a week some people went to look over

the house in question and wished to take it, but, offering a low rent, the house was refused them. Some weeks passed and no other tenants presented themselves. My friend came to me looking very disappointed ; I must say I was not a little worried to find that so long a time had passed and the rest of the prophecy was not fulfilled. However, I said, " Let us look in the cards again." I did so, and saw that within a fortnight fresh people would be in the house, and the then present occupier by the sea. I went on to describe the tenant. Not ten days passed before my friend came to tell me that her house was let to a family answering to the description I had given, that the rent was double the amount of the former offer, and in addition it was a longer let. The family wanted to come into the house at once, so in a few days she was leaving town for the seaside.

The following is an extract from a letter I received some time ago :—

Dec. 10th, 1895.

. . . . By-the-bye those cards of yours are wonderful. When you were here the last time you were good enough to tell Mr. — his fortune. You said that he would have a billet offered to him, which he would do well to accept; that in all probability he would be on the seas within three weeks. The very next day he was surprised at having a billet offered him, and in a fortnight's time he sails off. Several things you told me have happened. Of course we all swear by your prophecies.

Another extract from a letter:—

LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, *June 14th, 1895.*

. . . . You have quite made me a believer in the future being foretold by cards. I am sorry I did not follow your advice about that speculation. I lost heavily, as you said I should. Will you see if I am going to be successful in the case I am defending, I won't tell you anything about it, but shall wait your reply with interest. . . .

The above was from a great sceptic. Many people think it is necessary that the inquirer should believe thoroughly, and should wish fervently on the subject he is inquiring into. In my

opinion it does not matter one whit whether one has faith or not, if there is anything to foretell, it will show itself to either believer or sceptic. I am sure it is just as well not to wish.

The most satisfactory plan is to make your mind a blank if possible, to be quite passive ; too much anxiety on the consulter's part will baffle the seer, likewise if the seer allows himself to reason he loses his power of prophecy. As has already been stated, the intuitive faculties must be brought to the fore.

PRELIMINARIES.

Take a pack of ordinary cards, throw aside all under seven, reserving the aces. Many people use the smaller cards, they are not necessary in the methods I adopt ; the thirty-two cards in their different positions will tell you quite as much, and with the advantage that there are less cards to study.

If possible, when laying the cards out for fortune-telling, secure a *round* table.

VALUE OF THE SUITS.

Clubs prognosticate success, money, good luck, position.

Hearts—Sincerity in love, peace, domestic affairs.

Diamonds are precarious, dominated principally by the surrounding cards ; they also predict money.

Spades—Love, misfortunes, distance, immorality. The kings and queens are used for the Significators.

SIGNIFICATORS.

Spades—Very dark people, widows and widowers.

Clubs—Not so dark, brown eyes.

Diamonds—Very fair, red-haired, grey-haired, fair widows and widowers.

Hearts—Fair, blue eyes.

It is as well to judge the Significator's colouring by the eyes.

A Club, if a widow, becomes a Spade.

A Heart, if a widow, becomes a Diamond.

The consultant being married, the partner takes the same colouring.

Beginners and non-clairvoyants should mark those cards which are the same both ways as their meanings are changed when reversed.

Knives, in a general sense, are the thoughts of the Kings and Queens, they also represent young

men (*clubs*), soldiers (*diamonds*), lovers (*hearts*),
and traitors (*spades*).

CLUBS.

Right.

Reversed.

<i>Ace.</i> —Letters, papers, luck, riches	delayed letters, paper worries
<i>King.</i> —Good-hearted man, straightforward	makes him handicapped in his desires, worried
<i>Queen.</i> —Loving, forgiving	troubled, perplexed
<i>Knave.</i> —Lover	a young man
<i>Ten.</i> —Journey, luck	across water
<i>Nine.</i> —Will, legacy	delays, troubled journeys
<i>Eight.</i> —Love of a club man	papers
<i>Seven.</i> —Victory	financial worries

HEARTS.

Right.

Reversed.

<i>Ace.</i> —House, love letter	change of residence
<i>King.</i> —Kind man	unreliable man
<i>Queen.</i> —Fair woman	revengeful
<i>Knave.</i> —Cupid	delays in love
<i>Ten.</i> —Corrective to bad cards, great affection, happiness	birth, change
<i>Nine.</i> —Wish Card, success	love
<i>Eight.</i> —Love, marriage	jealousy of men
<i>Seven.</i> —Inconstancy	jealousy of women

Knave of Hearts is of no sex, always shows the best friend
of consulter

SPADES.

*Right.**Reversed.*

<i>Ace.</i> —Love, business, high building	death, annoyance
<i>King.</i> —Widower, lawyer	enemy
<i>Queen.</i> —Widowhood	enemy
<i>Knave.</i> —Professional man	traitor
<i>Ten.</i> —Distance, water, journey	sickness, trouble, mourning
<i>Nine.</i> —Failure ; if attended by hearts it represents an anchor	death
<i>Eight.</i> —Night, illness	deceit, immorality
<i>Seven.</i> —Determination	accident, loss

DIAMONDS.

*Right.**Reversed.*

<i>Ace.</i> —Ring, bank note	money, good letter
<i>King.</i> —Grey-haired man	treacherous man
<i>Queen.</i> —Widow, friend	coquette
<i>Knave.</i> —Military	treachery
<i>Ten.</i> —Money	journey
<i>Nine.</i> —Sharp instruments ; with the <i>Eight of Spades</i> , cross words	coffin, with the <i>Nine of Spades</i> danger
<i>Eight.</i> —Short journey, walk	spite
<i>Seven.</i> —Child, pet	small sum of money

The Knaves often signify agents or messengers :—

Knave of Diamonds.—Government service, postmen, &c.

Knave of Clubs.—Commercial agents and messengers

Knave of Hearts.—Social and domestic servants, &c.

Knave of Spades.—Legal and medical agents or messengers

VALUE OF CARDS THAT ARE ALIKE COMING TOGETHER.

	<i>Right.</i>	<i>Reversed.</i>
4 <i>Aces.</i> —	Inheritance, success	uneasiness, danger
3 "	Good news, rise	licentiousness
2 "	Jealousy	plots
4 <i>Kings.</i> —	Honours	undertakings in law
3 "	Successful under- taking	presentation
2 "	Friendship	fresh projects
4 <i>Queens.</i> —	Quarrels, indis- cretion	frivolity
3 "	Society	scandal, jealousy
2 "	Consultation with a friend	trouble
4 <i>Knaves.</i> —	Treachery	court
3 "	Disputes	indifference
2 "	Consultation	false friends
4 <i>Tens.</i> —	Success	disagreeable surprise
3 "	Happy future	loss
2 "	Lucky surprise	abundance

	<i>Right.</i>	<i>Reversed.</i>
4 <i>Nines</i> .—	Great surprise	avarice
3 "	Delays	apprehension, imprudence
2 "	Riches	money
4 <i>Eights</i> .—	Success	reverses
3 "	Marriage	place of amusement
2 "	Flirtation	happiness
4 <i>Sevens</i> .—	Children	intrigues
3 "	Disturbance	trouble with servants
2 "	Proposal	worries
2 <i>Red Tens</i> .—A wedding		

Several Court cards coming together show a festivity or social gathering.

EXAMPLES OF SOME COMBINATIONS.

King of Clubs—*Ten of Hearts*.—Sincere love.

Knave of Diamonds—*Ten of Spades*.—Trouble, unrest.

Ten of Hearts—*Ace of Diamonds*.—Wedding.

Eight of Hearts—*Ace of Diamonds*.—Proposal.

Nine of Spades—*Nine of Diamonds*.—Coffin.

Seven of Spades—*Nine of Diamonds*.—Accident.

Seven of Diamonds—*Knave of Hearts*.—Love child.

Seven of Hearts—*Knave of Diamonds*.—Jealousy.

Seven of Spades—*Court card*.—A false friend.

Ace of Spades coming between King and Queen.—Improper conduct.

Ace of Spades—*Nine of Clubs*.—Theatre.

Ace of Spades, with Hearts.—Love.

Ace of Spades, with Diamonds.—Financial trouble.

King and Queen of a Suit.—Engagement.

Queen of Spades—Knave of Spades.—Enemy in a woman.

King of Hearts—Nine of Hearts.—Happy love affair.

Ten of Diamonds—Seven of Spades.—Sickness on a journey.

If the Nine of Clubs comes next to Diamond Court cards, it
augurs rivals in love.

Eight of Clubs near Hearts.—New work and enterprises.

Ten of Spades—Nine of Spades.—Mourning.

Ace of Spades—Nine of Hearts.—Luck in love, or birth.

Eight of Hearts between two Court cards.—New friendships.

Eight of Hearts between four Court cards.—Ball, wedding.

Knave of Spades—Nine of Diamonds.—Physician.

Eight of Spades, coming between two Court cards, predicts a quarrel between those two people ; if the faces are turned away, the quarrel is passing off.

The Ace of Spades appertains to sensual pleasures, and the obstacles thereto. Coming at the head of a Significator, shows that the person will obtain his or her wish ; under Significator, that the desire is obtained already ; on the right, shows the desire ; on the left, the obstacles. The Ace and Eight of Spades, touching a Queen, shows sensual pleasure.

METHOD I.

Now that the interpretation of each card in its different positions is mastered, you can proceed to tell your friend's or your own fortune. The inquirer must shuffle the pack of thirty-two cards well, not wishing or keeping any particular subject in her (or his) mind, leaving it to chance or fate on what matter the cards may enlighten him.

Let the inquirer cut them in three packs, face upwards, on the table. The first thing the "fortune-teller" must do is to concentrate her thoughts entirely on the cards in front of her, putting aside all her own ideas as to how events may turn out. I always find it much easier to prophesy for strangers than for any one whose affairs I know about.

Let it be supposed a lady calls on the fortune-teller. The lady has brown hair and eyes. We make the mental comment that she is represented

by the Queen of Clubs (see page 16), that is to say, the Queen of Clubs is her Significator in the cards. The *Queen of Clubs* then has come to consult the oracle. She has cut the



This predicts an offer of marriage from a sincere and ardent lover.

Take up the cards in the order in which they were before the *inquirer* cut them, and proceed to lay them out on the table, face upwards, in four rows of eight cards in each row. Study the position of the cards, and give a general reading of them.

Two rows for an example.



The Queen of Clubs preceded by the Knave

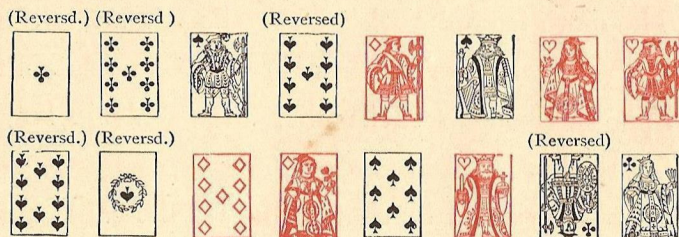
of Clubs, shows she has a lover. She has her wish in her lap as she faces the Nine of Hearts. The *ninth* card from her, being the King of Hearts, proves a friend in a fair man. Proceed to count to the *thirteenth*, and we have the Knave of Hearts in Cupid, by this we know the King of Hearts is her lover. He is true to her as Clubs are near him. The King of Hearts is touched by the King of Clubs, in the first row, by that we know the love to come from a straightforward, generous man, worthy of the inquirer's trust. The ninth card from the wish (Nine of Hearts) is the Ace of Diamonds (the ring), the Ten of Hearts touching it augurs an engagement; the Ten of Diamonds being the thirteenth card from the Ace, predicts a marriage, and a happy one.

The house (Ace of Hearts) counting the ninth card from it, we find Cupid, a lover to the house, the *thirteenth*, the Queen of Clubs, therefore he is the Queen of Clubs' admirer. Under the Ace

of Hearts are two Queens, two friends talking over the Queen of Clubs' affairs. Their feelings towards her must be judged by the following rows. Having read all the cards, take the first and last card of first and last rows, and so on through the four rows, and read them in pairs.

N.B.—The count may be made in any direction from a Significator. The third, seventh, ninth, and thirteenth cards, in a count, are always of much importance.

The preceding fortune was a happy prediction, as, in this world unfortunately, all cannot have their desires so easily. I am now going to give an example of a less happy nature. This time the consulter is the King of Hearts, for he is a moderately fair man with blue eyes.



Observe that the King of Hearts is surrounded by Knaves and Queens; treachery is round him. The Eight of Spades being between two court cards predicts a quarrel; three nines touching, and the Ten of Spades touching two Aces, utter failure in his plans; the Nine of Hearts reversed; so there is very little hope of success. The Ace of Clubs, reversed, augurs ill luck for the present.

To find out the cause of trouble, the ninth card from the inquirer is the Knave of Spades followed by the Nine of Spades; an enemy, the thirteenth card, is a Heart Queen, she is false to him. Cupid near her has made a mistake this time, having drawn her into a *liaison* with an unscrupulous man (King of Spades). The Knave of Diamonds next to him shows his character. The ninth from the wish card tells you where the King of Hearts' wishes are. Diamonds and Spades close to each other augurs his ill luck financially.

It is advisable to shuffle and lay the cards out

three times in this way, in order to arrive at accurate predictions. The first reading shows the general surroundings of the inquirer, and past events. In the second reading the past does not usually come up at all. In the third only the future presents itself.

The cards surrounding the various Significators—the Inquirer, the House and the Wish card, as well as the Significator of the person inquired about, if any—must be carefully studied, as they show the present or existing state of affairs in regard to each.

POSITION.

Although the count may, as said, be made in any direction from a Significator, yet a certain definite meaning attaches to the position of each ninth card (or key card) as regards the Significator. Thus:—

When at the *head* of the Significator, a card has relation to the near future; at the *foot*, the present; to the *right*, what is desired; to the *left*, what hinders.

These are called Direct Positions. The oblique positions:—

To the *right (above)*, what helps the consultant, his wish, interest, &c.

To the *right (below)*, what has already been done towards realizing the wish, &c.

To the *left (above)*, what obstacles will arise to the wish, &c.

To the *left (below)*, obstacles that have already arisen.

These positions I will now set out in a tabular form.

ABOVE.

LEFT.	What will arise in the near future to vex or disappoint the Consultant.	The near future, success or failure, the wish gained or lost. Things expected.	What helps the prospects, the interests or the wish of the Consultant.
	Obstacles and difficulties. Rivals, enemies. Cause of delay to success.	Significator.	Prospects. Things desired. Aspiration, hope, effort. Things to come. General outlook.
	Obstacles that have already arisen to thwart the Consultant.	The near past, things done, things obtained. Experience.	What has already been done towards improving the prospects or accomplishing the wish.

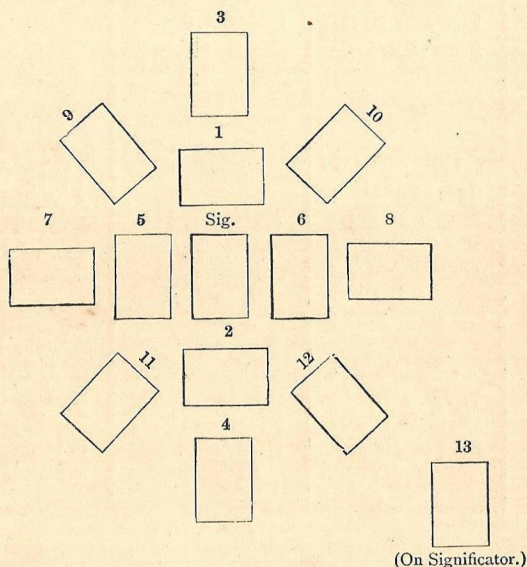
RIGHT.

BELOW.

The cards immediately touching the Significator in these respective positions are of greater import than those more distant from it. The *time* element is proportionately affected in the same manner.

METHOD II.

Place Significator, face upwards, on the table. Shuffle the remaining thirty-one cards; cut in three; always take particular notice of the cuts—



if they come on or near Significator or the House card, i.e. the Ace of Hearts. If the cards cut are good cards, it is a lucky omen; if bad cards, there is no doubt that the misfortune cannot be avoided.

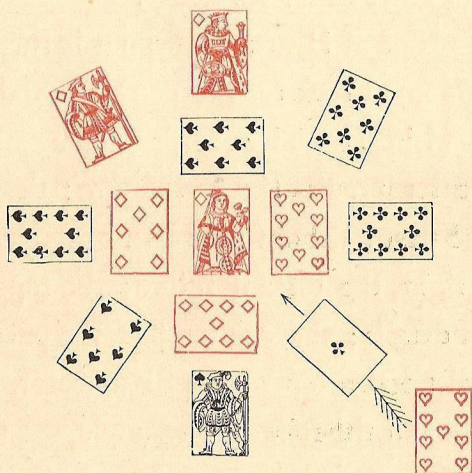
Having well shuffled and cut, take up the cards in order before cutting. Place two at the head of the Significator, two at the feet, two on the right, two on the left, one in each corner, and one on the Significator, making in all thirteen cards, in order as shown above.

If the Nine of Hearts comes out in the thirteen, it augurs good luck for the consulter and success to his wishes. Those cards which crown the Significator predict the *near* future ; those at the feet, the past ; those to the left, obstacles ; those to the right, the distant future ; the top corners, present details ; those at the feet, the past details, the card on the top of the Significator, the consolation. In the following example, the Queen of Diamonds (married) is supposed to be the Inquirer.

Crowning the Queen of Diamonds is Eight of Spades, and on that the King of Diamonds ; this predicts a quarrel with her husband. On her left the Seven of Diamonds and the Ten of Spades ; she has been troubled with the illness of her

child. At her feet the Nine of Diamonds and the Knave of Spades; the physician has been called in. On the right the Ten of Hearts and Ten of Clubs; a change into the country, and

Example.



recovery of her child. On the Queen the Nine of Hearts; her troubles are of short duration.

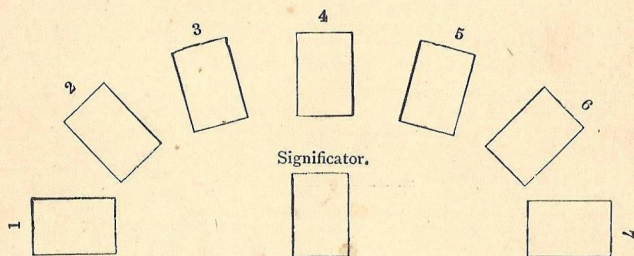
The above method is most useful to ascertain particulars of any business, or even of persons not present. Always put the card representing

the subject on which you want information in the centre, and place the cards round them as already illustrated. If information is required concerning the house, the Ace of Hearts must be taken from the pack, and used as a Significator. Business is represented by the Ace of Spades ; a journey by the Ten of Clubs ; a child, or animal, by the Seven of Diamonds ; letters or paper business by the Ace of Clubs.

METHOD III.

A Deep into the Week's Events.

Place your Significator as centre. Shuffle the cards ; cut three times. Draw seven cards from the pack ; place them in a semi-circle round the Significator, beginning at the left, i.e. :—



Cover each card (in the order you please) with another card from the pack, placing them face downwards on the cards already there. Proceed to read them in pairs, beginning at the left.

Example.

1. *Ace of Clubs—Eight of Spades.*—Unpleasant news.
 2. *Ace of Diamonds—Eight of Hearts.*—Letter of invitation.
 3. *Nine of Clubs—Eight of Diamonds.*—A short journey.
 4. *Ten of Clubs—Ten of Diamonds.*—A stroke of luck.
 5. *King and Queen of Diamonds.*—Visit of a married couple.
 6. *Knave of Hearts—Ten of Hearts.*—Visit of a lover.
 7. *Eight of Spades—Seven of Diamonds.*—Small loss.
-

METHOD IV.

The Planets.

In order that inquirers may learn in what profession or in what undertaking they may gain success, I have introduced the five most conspicuous planets, and the two less conspicuous ones.

Place Significator centre. Shuffle and cut three times. Begin at the right, and lay seven cards, forming a circle round the Significator. Then cover each with two cards (turned down), centre card included. Turn the cards up and read them. Begin at the right :—

The first stands for *Mercury*.—Science, action, literature, drama, medicine.

2. *Venus*.—Love, beauty, art.
3. *Mars*.—Warriors, arguments.
4. *Jupiter*.—Success, marriage, honours.
5. *Saturn*.—Night, finance.
6. *Uranus*.—Distance, royalty.
7. *Neptune*.—Water, journeys.

The cards on your representative show the means by which you gain your luck or misfortune.

METHOD V.

To find out whether the Inquirer will attain
his Wish.

Wish fervently while shuffling the cards. Cut once ; notice the card you cut. Draw from the pack twenty-one cards, wishing all the time. Deal the twenty-one cards out in three equal packs, face down.

Choose which pack you will have first.

The first, for yourself.

Second your expectations.

Third your consolation.

Lay the cards out as you choose them, in the form of a horse-shoe. Count every seventh card from your Significator, counting it as one, and so on until you return to it. If your representative is not drawn out, it is unlucky, and such being the case, count from the wish-card, or the card which represents the subject wished upon.

Should the card you have cut come next to you or the house, it augurs good for your wish. You will gain your wish for a certainty, if your Significator is out, and the Nine of Hearts comes within the first thirteen cards. It is also good if the wish-card comes in the pack for consolation ; but in that case it sometimes augurs a little delay. The Nine of Spades coming next your Significator denotes failure, or on the right of the Nine of Hearts, denotes that you will change the wish. Should the Nine of Spades come next the card cut or the card representing the subject wished upon, it predicts delays or obstacles. In order to find out the obstacles, count from the Nine of Spades. Should the Nine of Hearts fail to come out, and the Nine of Spades present itself, there is very little hope of gaining the wish—in fact, it is almost hopeless ; but the case must be judged by the cards that are drawn.

METHOD VI.

Another Way of Judging a Wish.

Place your Significator on the table. Shuffle the cards and wish. Draw five cards, placing the first, face down, at the head of your Significator, the second at the feet, the third on the right, the fourth on the left, and the fifth on the card representing yourself. If the Nine of Hearts is one of the five, you will obtain your wish; if, however, the Nine of Spades is drawn, you will *not* have your wish. This can be done three times, but it is very much luckier if the wish-card is drawn the first time.

METHOD VII.

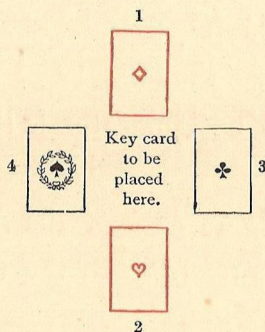
By Fifteen.

Shuffle your cards, having placed the Significator on the table. Take three cards from the top of the pack; place them at the head for luck, three at the feet for the past, three on the right for the future, three on the left for the obstacles, and three on yourself for what is immediately crossing your path. It is a lucky omen if the Nine of Hearts or the Ace of Clubs, right way up, crowns your Significator.

METHOD VIII.

The Four Aces.

Take the Four Aces from the pack of thirty-two cards. Place them on the table in this manner :—



1. *Diamonds*.—Represent action, business.
2. *Hearts*.—Love.
3. *Clubs*.—Success, power.
4. *Spades*.—Affliction, obstacles.

Deal the first twenty cards (turned down) from the remaining twenty-eight into four packs of five cards in each pack. Each Ace is to be covered with one of these packs. The consulter must

choose his packs and cover the Aces in what order he chooses, but remember to keep in his mind the subject of the Ace he intends to cover, while he is choosing the pack. Place the twenty-first card face up in the centre of the Aces. This card should be the key-card to the success or failure of the consulter's wishes. If it should be the wish-card it portends whatever troubles the consulter has, they will be of short duration. If the consulter's Significator is the key-card, it is a good omen.

The five cards on each of the Aces should be read together as referring to the things denoted by each Ace : as

Diamonds, for money.

Hearts, for domestic and social affairs.

Clubs, for business, honours, power.

Spades, for loss, trouble, sickness.

METHOD IX.

Shuffle the thirty-two cards, cut three times with the left hand, take the cards up in the order they are cut. Deal them out in eight packs, putting one to each pack at a time. This will make four cards in each pack.

The first pack	for yourself.
Second	your house.
Third	the present.
Fourth	future.
Fifth	surprise.
Sixth	at night.
Seventh	your friend.
Eighth	sure to come true.

The packs are taken one at a time and interpreted according to their combined meanings in relation to the designation attaching to each pack.

METHOD X.

The Twenty-four Hours.

Draw from the pack, at random, twelve cards. Place the eleven in a circle, face down, on the table, the twelfth card face upwards in the centre. This card will show what will come to the house within the twenty-four hours, or within the next two or three days. Turn the cards up in rotation, beginning at the

First,	which is your lover.
Second	friend.
Third	betray you.
Fourth	follows you.
Fifth	difficulties.
Sixth	what will surmount the difficulties.
Seventh	the morning.
Eighth	afternoon.
Ninth	evening.
Tenth	surprise.
Eleventh	wish.
Twelfth (centre card)	the house.

Having turned them all face up and read each

card consecutively, proceed to cover *each* card with another card, drawing at random from the remaining cards. Turn the cards you cover with face down, taking care not to get a glimpse of the cards as you draw them ; cover them in what order you like, not necessarily in rotation. Read in pairs.

METHOD XI.

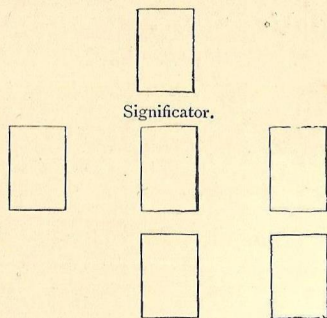
A Wish.

Place three Kings in a row on the table, leave in the Pack the King you wish on. Shuffle well and wish. Place face downwards one card on each King—three times—you will then have twelve cards on the table. Turn up the next card, viz. the thirteenth. If it should be the King you wished upon, you will obtain your wish for a certainty. Should you turn up the card representing yourself, in all probability the wish will be granted. If the wish is not on any man or woman, and if the Nine of Hearts or yourself comes as the thirteenth card, the wish is certain. If the Ace of Hearts, likely; but if a Spade turns up, then the wish is a failure.

METHOD XII.

The Destiny.

Place representative on the table, shuffle the cards, wish to know your destiny. Place two cards, face downwards, *on* the card representing the inquirer; one at the head, one at the feet, one on the right, one on the left, and one on the right of the one already dealt at the feet. Repeat this until the pack is exhausted.



This will give you five cards at the head, ten on the Significator, four in each of the other packs.

The cards which crown the Significator show what will happen immediately; those on the right, events a little distance off; those on the left, what is thrown aside; and those at the feet, the present plans and obstacles. Should the Nine of Hearts come in either of these packs (unaccompanied by Spades), it denotes success. Divide the cards on the Significator, placing one to the right and the next to the left, and so on, alternately. The first half shows what is crossing your path; the last, the description of your husband, the issue and details of your domestic life—the destiny.

METHOD XIII.

A method in which some of the smaller cards are of use. Add to the thirty-two cards the Five of Hearts, Spades, and Diamonds, the Four of Hearts, the Three of Hearts, Spades, and Diamonds.

MEANING OF THE CARDS.

HEARTS.

<i>Ace</i> .—House.	<i>Three</i> .—Little boy, joy.
<i>King and Queen</i> .—Fair man, and woman.	<i>Two Kings coming together</i> .— A new friend.
<i>Knave</i> .—Thoughts.	<i>Two Red Tens</i> .—Marriage.
<i>Ten</i> .—Proposal.	<i>The Four of Hearts coming between a King and a Queen</i> .—The marriage bed.
<i>Nine</i> .—Wish, luck.	
<i>Eight</i> .—Good heart.	
<i>Seven</i> .—Night.	
<i>Five</i> .—Strange bed.	

CLUBS.

<i>Ace</i> .—Letter.	<i>Ten</i> .—Water journey.
<i>King</i> .—Darkish man.	<i>Nine</i> .—Amusement.
<i>Queen</i> .—Darkish woman.	<i>Eight</i> .—Impudence.
<i>Knave</i> .—Unfairness.	<i>Seven</i> .—Business.

SPADES.

<i>Ace.</i> —Sickness.	<i>Queen.</i> —Very dark woman, widow.
<i>King.</i> —Very dark man, widower.	<i>Knave.</i> —Rogue.
<i>Ten.</i> —Distant journey.	<i>Three.</i> —Tears.
<i>Nine.</i> —Affliction.	<i>The Ace coming with the</i> <i>Eight.</i> —Severe sickness.
<i>Eight.</i> —Speedy.	<i>The Ace and Nine touching.</i> — Death.
<i>Seven.</i> —Removal.	
<i>Five.</i> —Surprise.	

DIAMONDS.

<i>Ace.</i> —Ring.	<i>Nine.</i> —Money.
<i>King.</i> —Very fair man.	<i>Eight.</i> —Money.
<i>Queen.</i> —Very fair woman.	<i>Seven.</i> —Money.
<i>Knave.</i> —Knavery.	<i>Five.</i> —Kisses.
<i>Ten.</i> —Money, town journey.	<i>Three.</i> —Little girl.
<i>The Ten, Nine, Eight and Seven, all touching, predict an inheritance.</i>	
<i>A run of Seven, Eight and Nine of Clubs, Hearts, or Diamonds, all of a suit, or mixed, predict good changes, either of business, abode, finance, or way of living.</i>	
<i>A run of Spades.</i> —Troublesome changes.	
<i>Three Eights.</i> —Changes.	
<i>Three Sevens.</i> —Marriage, changes.	

Shuffle, cut three times. In taking the cards up, place the middle cut on the top. Take the pack in your hand, read the cards in the order they come. Every ninth from your Indicator

should be taken as the key-card. Repeat this three times, wishing the third time of shuffling. To obtain your wish, the Nine of Hearts must come within the first thirteen.

Having read through the cards in this manner three times, shuffle them again, cut once, place the top cut under the others. Take the cards by threes, and when two of a suit come in the three, draw the highest, throw aside the others. If the three cards are all the same suit, draw them all; the same with cards of equal value, i.e. three Kings, three Tens, etc. After having exhausted the pack in this manner, take the cards that you have thrown aside, shuffle, and draw as before. This must be repeated until you have twenty-one cards, which you place in the order you have drawn them on the table in the shape of a horse-shoe. Find your Significator, count nine cards from it, and so on until you return to it. The ninth card is always of the greatest importance.

When you have read them, take the card from

the right hand with that on the left, and so on through the twenty-one, reading them in pairs. Shuffle the twenty-one and wish. Deal them in five packs.

First, for yourself.

Second your house.

Third what is going to happen.

Fourth the unexpected.

Fifth wish.

Should the Nine of Hearts and the house come in the wish-pack, you will for a certainty have your wish. The Nine of Spades in the wish-pack—the wish will never be obtained.

The Nine of Hearts coming in any of the other packs denotes a delay to your wishes.

METHOD XIV.

The Coming Fortnight.

In order to know the incidents of the coming fortnight, the following method is recommended. Shuffle the cards. Cut them to three packs. Interpret the cards cut. Replace the pack in its original order. Spread the cards, face downwards, on the table, and draw thirteen, placing the cards drawn, in order, face upwards, on the table. Count from the card first drawn. Call it one, and count to the ninth, note the first and ninth. Take the ninth as one, and count again to the ninth, and so on in succession—each ninth card being the first of a new series of nine. Interpret as you go along, taking each key-card in relation to that which preceded it, and that which will follow it. So continue till the count returns the first card drawn.

The events thus foretold will transpire within the next fortnight.

METHOD XV.

Counting by Sevens.

Shuffle and cut the thirty-two cards. Interpret the cut. Recompose the pack. Take the pack in hand, backs upward, and deal them one on top of another. Every *seventh* card is laid aside face upwards. The pack is then taken up and the operation repeated, taking care to give the first card that number which next succeeds to the one last dealt. Thus, as there are thirty-two cards in hand, four seventh cards will come out, and there will be four over. The first of the second count will therefore be called five.

When twelve cards have been drawn in this manner, and placed in order from left to right, they are thus interpreted:—

Count from the first card to the seventh, then call the next card *one* and count again to the

seventh, and thus proceed till the first card is reached again.

Read each *seventh* card in connection with the preceding and following seventh, bearing in mind the modification suggested by the cards touching it on the right and left.

Suppose the following cards are drawn by a woman:—King of Hearts, Ace of Diamonds, Ace of Clubs, Queen of Clubs, Nine of Hearts, Seven of Spades, Eight of Diamonds, Jack of Spades, Ten of Spades, Seven of Diamonds, Nine of Clubs and Jack of Diamonds. They count out in this order:—King of Hearts, Eight of Diamonds, Ace of Diamonds, Ten of Spades, Queen of Clubs, Nine of Clubs, Seven of Spades, when the count returns to the King of Hearts. We have thus *seven* cards to interpret in order: A fair man, a short journey, money, distance, a dark woman, a merry-making, a change. Hence I should say a fair man will go a short journey regarding money (or jewels), which he will take

to a distance (across water) to a dark woman. There will be merry-making, followed by a change of residence. It will be noticed that the Queen of Clubs has the Ace of Clubs (good luck) and the Nine of Hearts (her wish) on either side of her, so that all will go well with her, and she will get her wish herein.

The preceding methods I have always found successful for telling my friends and acquaintances their fortunes. It is hardly necessary, I should think, to impress on my readers the fact that there is everything in the manner in which a fortune is told. Keep your consulters interested in what you are telling them. I will now add a few rules which will tend to the success of prophecy.

RULES.

1. Patience.
2. Concentration.
3. Cheerfulness.
4. Obliviate self.
5. Accuracy.
6. If the cards do not read easily, do not attempt to force them, as by doing so there is danger of foretelling untruths.
7. Be very cautious with hysterical and highly nervous people.
8. Never tell any one if they cut up their own death, as sometimes it only means a very serious illness.
9. Be very sure before you announce any demise.
10. The cards are not always accurate concerning deaths.
11. Always be ready to tell sceptics their fortunes.
12. Practice makes perfect.
13. Never cut the cards with the right hand, always with the left. The ancient adepts attributed more mystic power to the left, it being nearer the heart.
14. Never attempt to force the cards to bring about a favourable prediction, it only renders the whole thing void.

CONCLUSION.

I should like to put before the public a plea for those who take this matter up as a profession. Not that I have any personal interest in the matter, nor would I, even if necessary, have anything to do with it in that light. There are so many people in straitened circumstances who have the natural gift of second sight, and by its powers can help many who are in trouble, with advice given, beyond our ken. I am sure many of my readers will agree with me that it is unfair that the law will not allow these people to receive fees. We constantly read in the daily papers of some poor woman, who, knowing she has this gift, has perhaps taken it up as a last resource, in order to live without begging, being tracked by the police, fined, and sometimes imprisoned. Some move should be made to repeal a law that has placed such people under the ban of vagabonds. I acknowledge there are charlatans. I ask in

what profession, what business are there not impostors and quacks? Can a good thing exist in this world unassailed by the powers of evil?

Lawyers and doctors, etc., may receive fees for giving advice on physical and financial matters, then why should not "Clairvoyants" take their fees in return for the amusement, encouragement, and relief to the mind they are enabled to give. Some people think that Clairvoyance, etc., is no hard work—mere child's play. Such people are very much mistaken, for the practice of it is a great strain on the nervous system. I know of several cases where clairvoyants have unravelled what has baffled clever men of law, and to have diagnosed difficult diseases which have puzzled eminent medical men. Let it not be inferred that I have no faith in the wisdom of lawyers or in the skill of doctors; on the contrary, I believe in everyone until I prove them rogues.

Let me once more impress upon you, whether

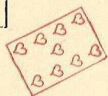
telling a fortune or having yours told, to be passive, and not anxious.

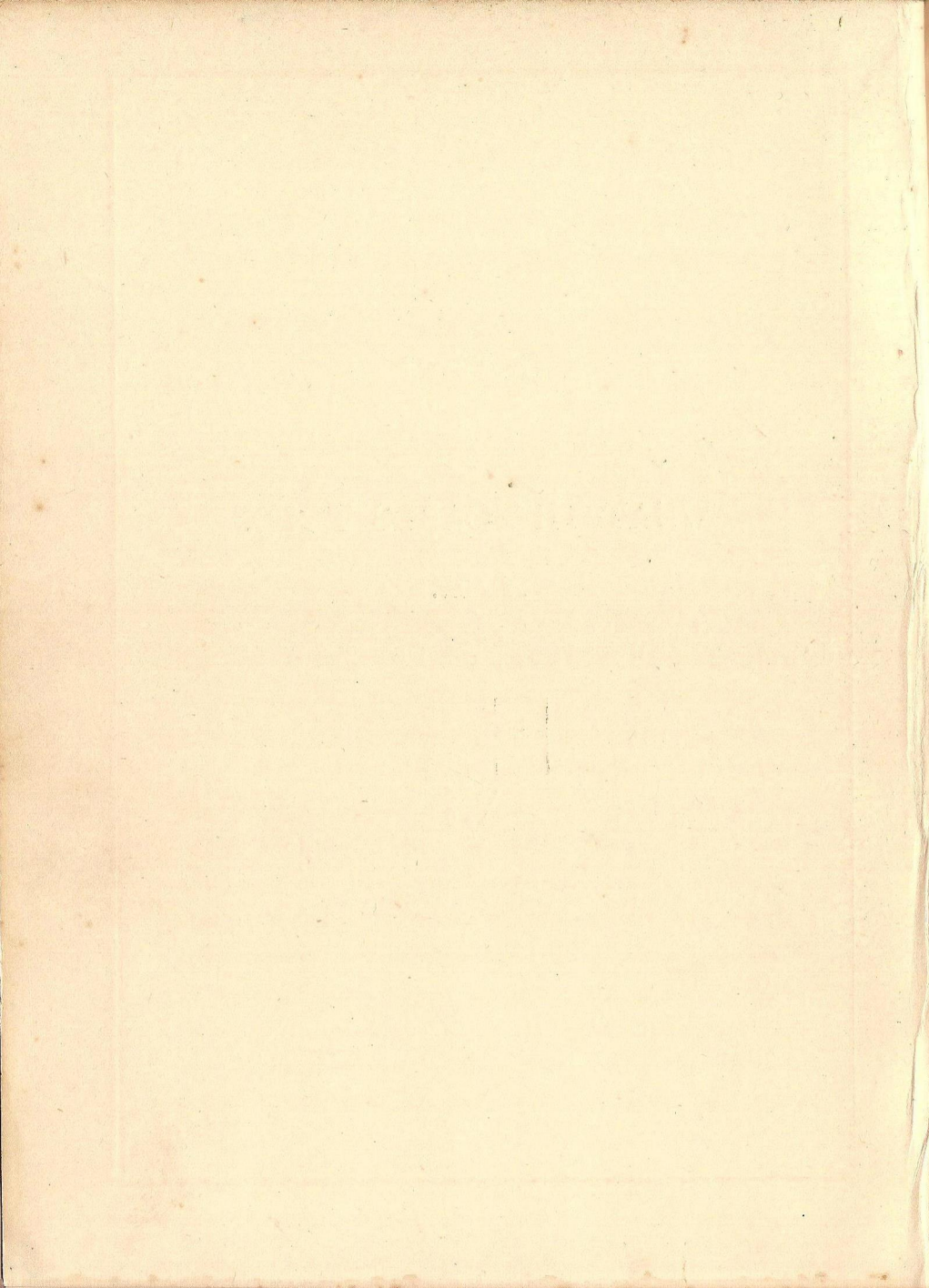
I believe it is easy to throw one's thoughts into the cards, and if this is done, then the fortune told cannot be relied on. If the Cartomancer is endowed with the gift of clairvoyance, it is naturally a great advantage. I have endeavoured to put everything in as simple a manner as possible, that everyone may learn. I hope the book will be approved by my readers, that it will enable them all to derive much amusement, and that they will be successful in sending many of their friends on their way rejoicing. Also, I trust they will find as much interest in my work as I hope to gain by it. Prospectively, I offer my thanks to all who kindly patronize this book, and who recommend their friends to do the same.

MINETTA.

WHAT THE CARDS TOLD.

A Fact.





WHAT THE CARDS TOLD.

A Fact.

"It was the hour between the lights," at the close of a bright June day. In her pretty little boudoir, the arrangement of which gave the impression of a peaceful fairy bower, Miriam looked refreshingly cool in her white summer gown, as she swayed herself languidly in her rocking-chair, and enjoyed the evening breeze as it came in at the open window, playing amongst—nay, seeming almost to caress—the soft curls which fell carelessly over her brow. She was evidently in a very pleasant reverie, judging by the happy smile which hovered round her sensitive mouth. She was no great beauty, but there was an irresistible charm in her manner, and particularly in her expressive, deep eyes, which fascinated most people who came in contact with her.

Presently the door opened, and a female servant announced, "Mr. Howard and Mr. Crieff."

Miriam rose to greet her visitors. There was nothing remarkable in either of these two men—they were outwardly much the sort of men one meets every day. Lionel Howard was a successful young author, and gave one, or tried to give one, the impression that he was very much bored with his success. No one knew whether Alec Crieff was independent, or whether his income was derived from any business or profession. Some said he was very hard up. If such were the case, he hid it very cleverly. However, he was always well dressed, and was a perfect English gentleman.

"You look quite eerie sitting alone in the twilight, Miss Leigh," said Lionel Howard, as he sat down in one of Miriam's most comfortable chairs.

"Do I? Well, we will have some light on the scene," and as Miriam spoke, she touched the button which turned on the electric light, and in a second the room was illuminated, and looked prettier than ever. "I am particularly fond of sitting alone in the twilight."

"I am afraid we disturbed you, Miss Leigh," said Alec Crieff.

"If you did," Miriam replied pleasantly, "it is a very good thing, for I was building castles in the air—a foolish habit of mine. The worst of it is, my castles become so real to me, that when they fall, the disappointment is terrible."

"Moral is," said Howard, laughingly, "resist the temptation of building air castles."

"Nevertheless," said Miriam, dreamily, "one can derive immense pleasure from one's thoughts. I am inclined to think that what we call our thoughts is really our spirit taking up the thread of a past existence, or even being allowed to wander, in order to catch a glimpse of the future, either here or in other spheres."

There was silence for a few seconds. Howard broke it.

"Perhaps you are right, Miss Leigh; I never thought of it in that light. However, I hope your castles to-day were bright ones, and that they will all become real in time."

"Thank you," replied Miriam, with a sigh; "I am afraid there is no such good luck for me."

"Come, come! Miss Leigh," said Howard. "Why, not long ago, when I was grumbling at my luck, you said to me, so impressively that I

believed you, that '*everything* comes to those who know how to wait.' "

"I am afraid I am one of those who do not know how to wait," Miriam replied.

"I know you too well to believe that," said Howard.

"You ought to know everything that is going to happen to you, as you are so famed for being able to see future events," remarked Alec Crieff, laconically.

"Ah!" Miriam replied, brightly, "don't you know that it is considered very unlucky to tell one's own fortune?"

"Is it really?" said Howard. "I am sure if I were as clever at it as you, I should chance the ill luck, for I should never be able to resist reading the cards. What do you say, Crieff?"

"I should be afraid of myself if I had Miss Leigh's powers," Crieff replied; and turning to Miriam, he said, "Do you never tell your own fortune?"

"No," replied Miriam, "for I could not. I can certainly judge by the cards if anything I have in hand will turn out a success or a failure, and I always regret it if I use my own judgment

in opposition to what the cards tell me. Now," she added cheerfully, "I suppose you both are dying to have your fortunes told?"

"Oh!" said Lionel Howard, in ecstasy, "would you mind? Are you sure it won't tire you?"

"It will not tire me; I will tell you with pleasure. Will one of you remove the flowers from that small round table, and I will get the cards."

She crossed the room as she spoke, and took a pack of cards from a cedar-wood box.

They were soon all three sitting round the little table—Lionel Howard eagerly expectant, Alec Crieff meditative, and Miriam seriously counting the cards, to make sure she had the right number.

"Now," said Miriam, "he who draws the highest card shall be first."

The two men drew a card each.

"Ten of Spades," cried Howard, excitedly. "What is yours, Crieff?"

"The Nine of Diamonds."

"Then you are first, Mr. Howard; but what nasty cards you have both drawn!"

"I always feel thrilled when Miss Leigh tells me my cards," said Howard, as he drew his chair up closer to the table.

"Now, Mr. Howard," said Miriam, as she gave him the pack of cards, "shuffle well, do not wish anything, cut in three."

Lionel Howard did as he was told.

"Oh dear!" said Miriam, as she looked at the cards he had cut, "you are running into some danger."

She then laid the cards out on the table in four rows, of eight cards in each. For a few moments she studied the cards earnestly.

Presently she said, "You appear to be planning a journey, either on the water or by the water, and another man is going with you."

"Yes," said Howard, eagerly, "Crieff and I start to-morrow for St. Catherine's Bay."

"Well," continued Miriam, in a very earnest tone, "take my advice and do not go on that journey; if you do, you run the risk of losing your life."

"How?" cried both men together. Miriam shook her head.

"I cannot see exactly how, but there is a great danger on or by the water for you. There are others also connected with it."

"But," said Howard, "we have made arrange-

ments to go ; we have engaged our rooms at the hotel, and our friends expect us to-morrow."

Miriam shrugged her shoulders. "I tell you what I see here," and she indicated the cards lying on the table before her. "There is a fatality about your journey which can be averted, I therefore strongly advise you to give it up."

"I don't see how we can," said Howard ; "we shall look so foolish."

Miriam raised her eyebrows in surprise. "I should say it would be far more foolish to lose your life. For my part, nothing would induce me to take a journey, however important it might appear to be, if my cards looked like yours do to-day."

Howard inwardly felt very much inclined to give up his trip, as he had so many times proved the accuracy of Miriam's prophecies.

"Do see," he said rather anxiously, "if Mr. Crieff will run the same risk."

Miriam gathered up the cards from the table and handed them to Alec Crieff. "Shuffle them well," she said ; "make your mind a blank, if possible."

"*Can* you force your august mind to think of nothing ?" asked Howard.

"Very easily," replied Crieff, seriously.

Miriam laid the cards out in the same way as before. "You have a great change before you, Mr. Crieff, and I think it will come to you very soon," she said.

"What sort of a change, Miss Leigh?"

"Something very good, I should say; it seems to me that some one is dead, and has left you an immense fortune."

"Oh! come," said Howard, "this is not fair! Why should you have such good luck?"

Crieff smiled a little wearily, and said to Miriam, "This is most exciting, Miss Leigh; if it comes, *you* will not be forgotten; do go on."

"Your sudden good luck," continued Miriam, "is followed by a bitter disappointment, and," here Miriam paused, "that will turn to good eventually."

"Then he is not in danger of losing his life like poor me?" sighed Howard melodramatically.

"Yes, he is," replied Miriam. Then, looking at Crieff, "The journey is as fatal to you, if you take it, as it is to Mr. Howard. I fancy you will be in a boat with two or three other people, and that there will be an accident. Now just shuffle the

cards again, and I will see how it will be if you give up the journey. There," said Miriam, as she laid the cards out again, after Alec Crieff had shuffled them, "the whole danger is removed, and your fortune is still here. Do let me persuade you both to put off your journey."

"You really believe we shall come to harm if we do not?" queried Crieff, a trifle sardonically.

"I am quite sure that if you do go, some great danger awaits you," replied Miriam with emphasis.

"Well, I for one will follow your advice," said Lionel Howard, rising to go. "I will not leave town for another week. Before I go, may I call and see you again?"

"Do," replied Miriam, "and we will have another peep in the cards."

"I hope you will give me a brighter fortune next time."

"I am sure I hope so too."

"Many thanks," said Howard, "for taking so much trouble to-day. I am afraid we have tired you dreadfully."

"Thank you, I am not tired. Good-bye," as Lionel offered his hand in farewell.

Alec Crieff came forward to say good-bye, and to express his thanks for his enjoyable visit.

"Good-bye, Mr. Crieff," said Miriam; "don't forget to let me know if the fortune I have prophesied is realized."

"You may be certain you will be the first I shall think of if I hear of it."

Both men took their leave. Miriam put her cards away in the cedar box.

* * * * *

Two weeks passed, and Miriam was alone, partaking of her five o'clock tea one afternoon, when the servant brought her in a letter, which read thus :—

DEAR MISS LEIGH,—I was dreadfully disappointed to find that you were out when I called before leaving town. I must tell you that Alec Crieff and I are indebted to you for being still in the land of the living.

You remember we gave up our trip down here last week by your advice, and it is well we did so. Our friends, who were expecting us to join them here, went out the following day in a small boat. A gale arose, and the boat was nearly capsized at a very dangerous place. If Crieff and I had

come here we should have been of the party, and had the boat been more heavily freighted, it would certainly have capsized, and the accident would, without doubt, have ended fatally for some of us, if not all. Have you heard that Crieff has come into a fortune, which an uncle in Australia has bequeathed to him? Do foretell that some ancient relative will die and leave me £20,000. With many thanks for having saved my unworthy life,

Yours very truly,

LIONEL HOWARD.

Miriam laid her letter down. "Strange," she said to herself, "how true the cards are! I cannot understand how it is. I am glad I can read them, for I have, through them, helped many people over a stile. I wonder if this is the surprise I saw in my own cards just now; no, it can't be, for it did not seem to come on paper." The door opened and Mr. Crieff was announced.

"How are you, Miss Leigh?" he said, as he came forward to shake hands with her.

Miriam thought his manner a little strained.

"No doubt," she decided, "he is excited over his stroke of good luck."

"You will have some tea?" she said.

"Thank you. How delightfully cool your room always is!"

"I am glad you find it so. It is not quite so hot to-day. Sugar?"

"Thanks; one lump."

"It is strange you should come in at this moment, for I have just received a letter from Mr. Howard."

"Ah! I suppose he has told you that we owe our lives to your warning?"

"He has also told me that something else I foretold has proved correct. May I congratulate you on your good fortune?"

"Thank you, Miss Leigh."

"I remember when I was telling you," continued Miriam, "you smiled contemptuously, as if you thought I was trying to amuse you with a fairy story."

"Well, it was like this" (and Alec Crieff spoke a little hurriedly): "I could not believe it, because I had no expectations of any legacy. I had forgotten the existence of my deceased uncle; and if I had remembered him, I should never have thought of him leaving me all his money, for I

was never a favourite of his. I hope you will forgive me for doubting."

"I am not at all sure that I shall forgive you, for you made me feel very unhappy; it is very horrid, when you are doing your best, to be thought a humbug."

"No! no! no!" said Crieff; "I never thought that: no one would think such a thing of you. I have always had the sincerest regard for you; indeed, I came here to-day with the intention of asking you to share with me the fortune you foretold so cleverly. Miriam, I love you—I have loved you for a long time past; but I was poor, so I could not speak to you. Now I can give you a home worthy of you. Tell me, dear." And he laid his hand caressingly and respectfully on hers, as it toyed with the ribbons on her gown.

Miriam tried to speak, as she raised her eyes to his. And, alas! poor Alec read his refusal plainly there. He drew his hand away, and, with a heavy sigh, rose.

"You need not speak," he said, brokenly; "I read your answer in your eyes."

Miriam rose, and placed her hand on his arm.

"Mr. Crieff," she said, very gently, "I am so sorry. I had no idea you thought of me in that light. Forgive me for causing you pain, and, believe me, I appreciate the honour you offer me."

"Miriam!" (Alec spoke huskily, with suppressed emotion) "is there some one else?"

"Yes," murmured Miriam.

"Then, dear," said Alec—and the gentleness of his voice told Miriam how much he was suffering—"I will not bother you. If there had been no one else, I would have tried to win your love. I know you are not the woman to marry where you do not love. May every blessing attend you, for you deserve it. Some day when you are happy with him you love, give one little thought to me, for I, at least, have loved you well."

Here occurred a pause, which Miriam was far too sympathetic and intuitive to break in upon.

At last with the manner of a man who knows he must pull himself together, Alec said, smiling ruefully, "By-the-bye, Miriam, do you not recognize that this involves the fulfilment of another of your prophecies? Do you remember saying that my bit of good luck was to be followed up by a bitter disappointment?"

"I do," murmured Miriam, gently; then adding, with a playful gesture of challenge, "but I also remember saying that it was to turn to good in the end."

"The only good that could come to me now would be the hearing that you are happy."

"Some day you too will be happy with a woman more worthy of you."

"Not more worthy. Farewell, dear Miriam; I wish it could have been otherwise."

He kissed her hand, and was gone.

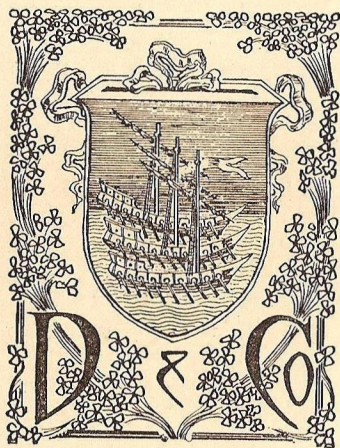
Miriam flung herself in her chair, and wept bitter tears. "Why, oh why do the fates make us love the wrong people? Why can't I love him, and make him happy? What have I done that I should make a good, kind man miserable, and fail to win the love of the man *I* adore? What did he say? 'When you are happy with him you love, give one little thought to me, for I, at least, have loved you well.' Poor Alec! I wonder if I am never to think as tenderly of your staunch and gentle heart until then."

Miriam sank on the couch, and buried her face in her hands.

THE END.

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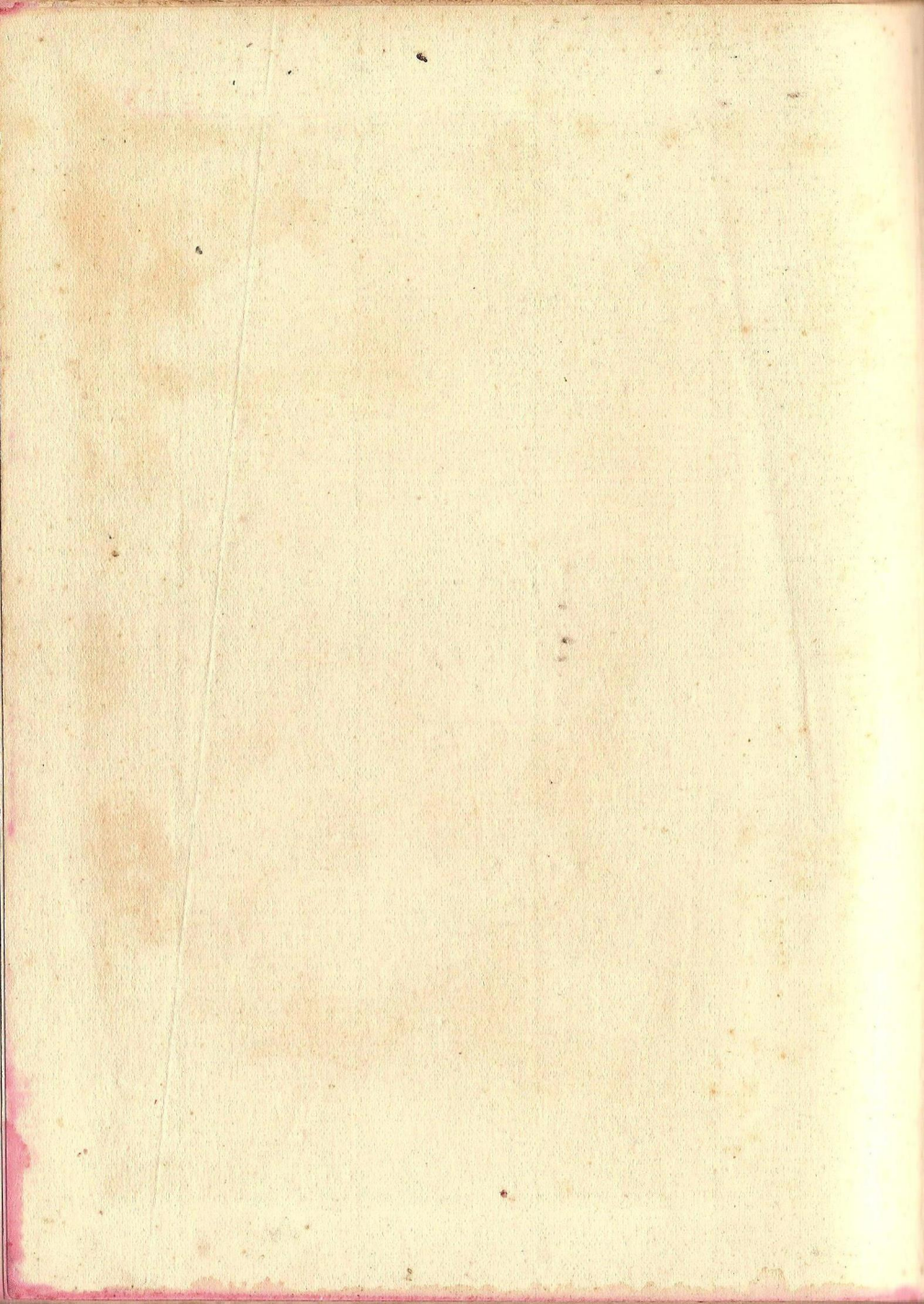
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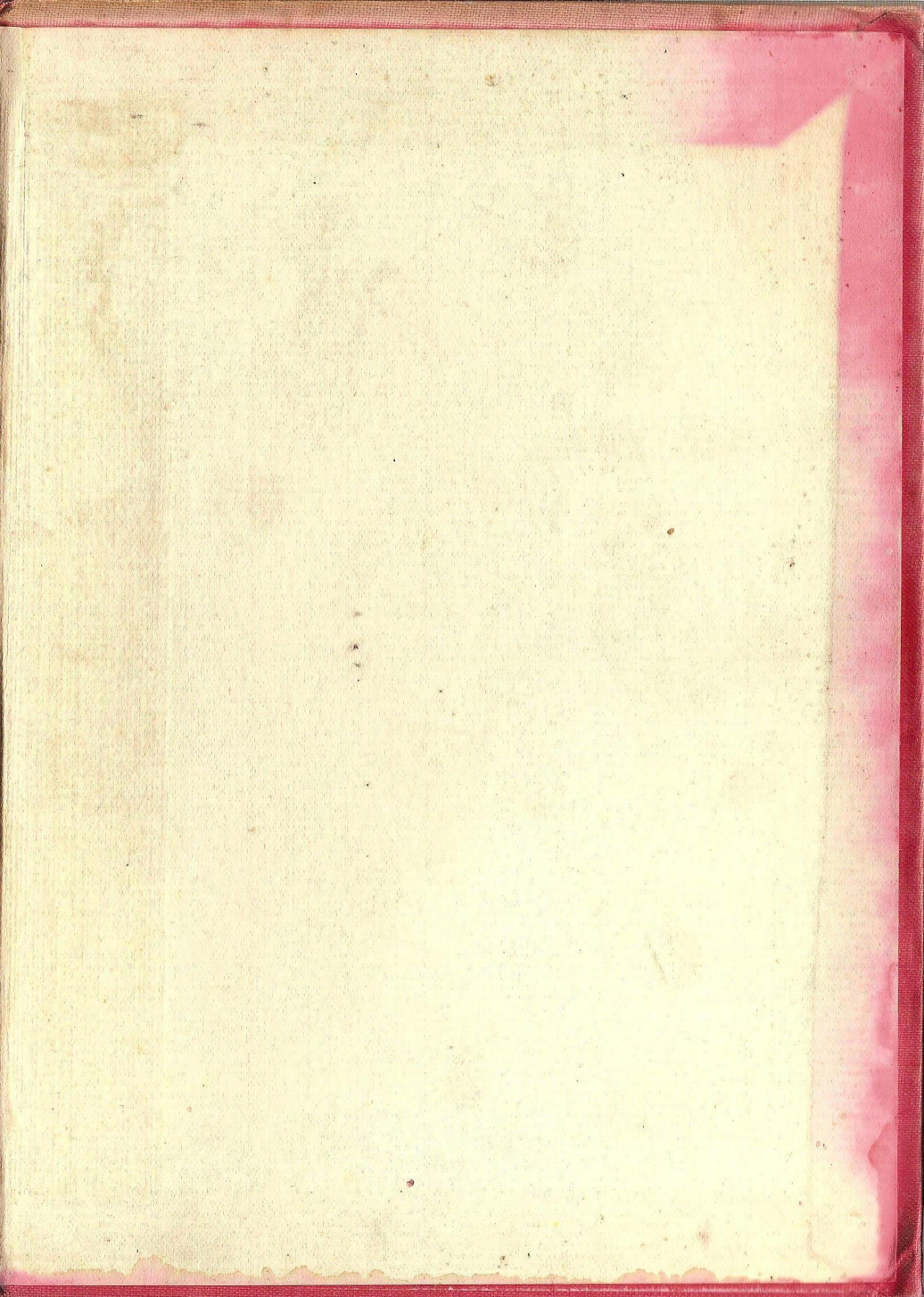
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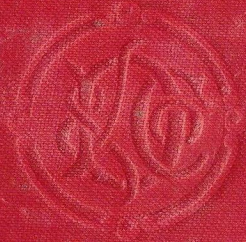
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